

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ENVOY ROBERT O. BLAKE ARRIVES IN DHAKA TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 14

DHAKA, FEBRUARY 13 -- Robert O. Blake, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Blake will arrive in Bangladesh on February 14 for a three-day visit during which he will participate in a series of diplomatic, trade, education and civil society events intended to expand bilateral relations.

On February 14, Assistant Secretary Blake will attend the Edward M. Kennedy 40th Anniversary Commemoration at Dhaka University. This commemoration will bring together eminent members of Bangladeshi society along with State Department alumni and youth leaders to celebrate American-Bangladeshi friendship and the anniversary of Senator Kennedy's visit to Dhaka in 1972. While in Dhaka, Assistant Secretary Blake will meet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other senior government officials and representatives of civil society. Assistant Secretary Blake will also travel to Chittagong, where he will attend events at the Independent University Bangladesh and Asian University for Women, and participate in a Certificate of Completion Ceremony for madrassa students who have held English language scholarships. Assistant Secretary Blake will also visit a Grameen Bank Borrower's Group site in Bangladesh and attend a luncheon hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce as part of the U.S.-Bangladesh Trade Show.

Assistant Secretary Blake was appointed Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs in May 2009. As Assistant Secretary, he oversees U.S. relations with India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. He previously served as Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives from 2006 to mid-2009 and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission in New Delhi, India from 2003 – 2006. Since he entered the Foreign Service in 1985, he has served at the American Embassies in Tunisia, Algeria, Nigeria and Egypt. He has also held a number of positions at the State Department in Washington, including Senior Desk Officer for

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PRESS RELEASE

Turkey; Deputy Executive Secretary; and Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

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GR/ 2012

Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)